

THE FARMER-JUDGE.

Character Sketch of the Democratic Standard Bearer.

ALTON BROOKS PARKER'S CAREER

Descended From Farmers and Patriots, Judge Parker While Maintaining a High Career on the Bench Has Clung to His Farm.

Alton Brooks Parker is well known throughout the State of New York as the Farmer-Judge.

His father, his grandfather before him, and theirs before them, were farmers, honest men who lived their lives on their farms, cultivating the soil, raising crops and cattle. His grandfather, John Parker, passed from the old homestead in Massachusetts and bought a farm in Cortland County, New York, in 1802; and here was born John Parker, and on May 14, 1822, Alton Brooks Parker, the Democratic candidate for President. Love of the soil, of crops, of cattle, of pure air and clear well water are inborn traits of this sterling American citizen.

One day John Parker, who was a man of studious habits, widely and deeply read and gifted with rare memory for the best passages in the works of best authors was summoned to do jury duty in Cortland. He took Alton with him. The boy was so greatly impressed with the proceedings that he determined to become a lawyer. Overcoming by diligence, persistency and ability all obstacles, he not only became a lawyer, but was elected by 61,000 majority Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals, the greatest gift in the legal profession that can be bestowed by the people of the Empire State.

As soon as circumstances permitted the Judge bought himself a farm at Esopus, N. Y. Here he began raising his now famous herd of Red Polls, a hornless cattle good in the dairy and in beef.

In the fine old house he has a great library. Out of doors Alton Brooks Parker is the farmer who seeks to win from nature every gift sought by the husbandman; in his library the same, rugged, hearty man seeks in volumes of yellow calf parallels and precedents to guide him in his decisions. And so, by reason of his dual occupations, his many friends call him the Farmer-Judge.

MEN AND THE CONSTITUTION.

To every man who loves his country—a country made great and powerful by virtue of institutions rooted in the Constitution, guarded and shielded by the Constitution—it is pleasing, nay, inspiring, to behold in this age of wealth and corrupt political and financial organization, a man of simple origin, removed from every favorable condition save those of honest and industrious parentage, so battle all obstacles and so rise in the esteem, affection and admiration of men that he be called upon to resign virtually a life position, the most commanding at the bar of his or any other State, to become the standard bearer of one of the great political parties. And when it is borne in mind that the great grandfather of Alton Brooks Parker was one of those farmers who left his farm when the War of the Revolution broke out to shoulder a musket, that by the work done by these embattled farmers' liberty and independence was won for all Americans, and that the Constitution was the direct outcome of the self-sacrifice, heroism, patriotism and blood of those farmers, it is not to be wondered at that Alton Brooks Parker, the great-grandson, is now engaged in the battle to preserve that Constitution from usurpation and destruction. As the great-grandfather fought that liberty might be secured, so the great-grandson fights that liberty may ever be preserved by the Constitution.

What the Constitution has enabled Alton Brooks Parker to become, so will the undefiled Constitution enable all other farmers' sons to become in the future years.

HIS EARLY STRUGGLES.

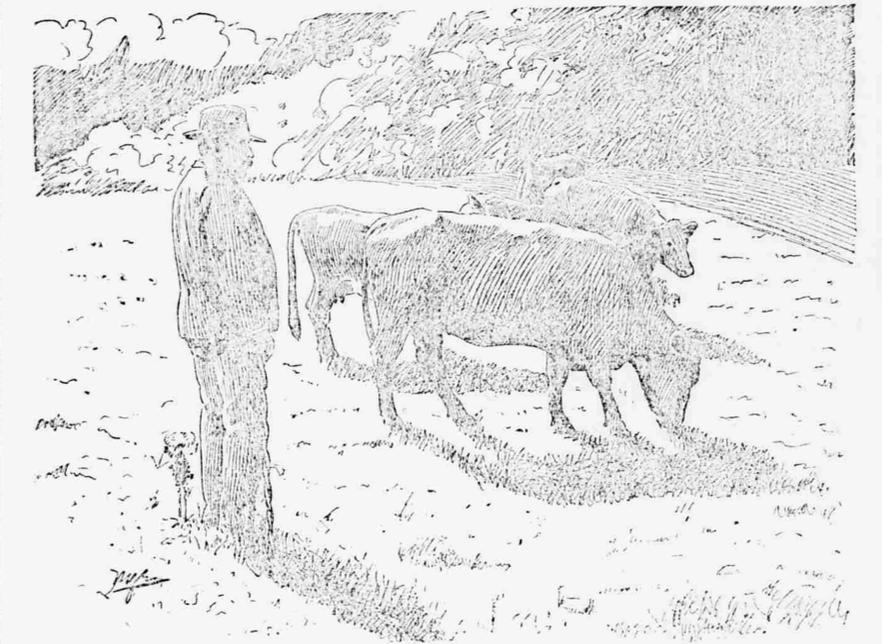
But what of those early days? Young Parker was greatly in earnest to become a lawyer. His father did not possess the means to educate him thoroughly for the profession; notwithstanding, Alton persevered in his purpose. He was admitted at the Cortland Academy when sixteen years of age, and on that very day he started out to obtain a school to teach and he obtained one in Vergil, thirteen miles from his home. His first experience as a teacher was extremely trying. Some of his pupils were nearly as old and as large as he. More than one conflict of authority was necessary before he could subdue and control his scholars, but this is the end he accomplished. The year following the young teacher obtained a license or degree from the normal school of his town, and through this credential secured a position in the county in which he now resides, Ulster County, N. Y. His salary was three dollars per day, and the position was as principal of the school, which gave him some leisure in which to study law, and, in fact, so industrious and energetic was he that he held this position but a year, when he became twenty-one years of age and was ready to be admitted to the bar, having not supported himself for the five years just past.

As soon as he was admitted to practice he became the junior partner in the office of Schoonmaker & Hardenbergh, of Kingston, N. Y. He had a strong friend in Augustus Schoonmaker, who took an interest in him and encouraged him to take a course at the Albany Law School. The friendship between Schoonmaker and Parker became still closer. Yonn Parker was hardly a partner in the firm when he took a lively interest in the political fortunes of Schoonmaker, who had been county judge, but was defeated for re-election, and was so discouraged by this that he was about to give up politics forever. Young Parker dissuaded him from doing so, and he arranged matters for Schoonmaker's

nomination for State Senator, and managed the campaign which resulted in his election. About this time Alton Brooks Parker became enamored of Mary L. Schoonmaker, a daughter of Moses L. Schoonmaker, of Accord, whose progenitor also fought for his country in the Revolutionary War. In her he obtained a life partner who was accomplished, educated and refined and whose attractiveness was the theme of general remark. The happiness of this couple during a long life shows that the judgment of Judge Parker was commendable. Judge Parker's own political career soon began. When he was twenty-five years of age he was nominated for Surrogate of Ulster County, and he was the only Democrat elected on the county ticket that year. He served six years and a particular effort was made by the opposition each time to defeat his re-election. His competitor was the man who defeated his former partner for county judge and was one of the popular men of the county. Parker proved a more difficult proposition and was re-elected by a strong majority in spite of a bolt on the ticket.

McKinley had carried New York State by a majority of over 250,000 votes the election for Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals had to be made. The Democratic State Committee selected the candidate and in November following (1897) Judge Alton Brooks Parker carried the State by sixty-one thousand majority, thus making a change of about 330,000 votes in one year. This high office has been filled by him since 1898 and he has given the office his undivided attention, and all parties agree that he has made a reputation as a learned, able and thoroughly incorruptible Judge. His is considered the most judicious man on the bench. His decisions show him to be a lawyer of the keenest judicial insight. Without prejudice and strictly impartial he has won the confidence of his fellow judges and the attorneys throughout the State without regard to parties. As a presiding chief judge his conduct has been dignified but not arbitrary; his opinions have been spoken of by the most learned lawyers of the State and of other States as models worthy to be followed by other judges. The mental characteristics as

Judge Parker does his work. The Judge jumps out of bed at 6.30 in the morning invariably, and in the summer season his first movement is to put on a bathing suit and trip down the hill to the Esopus landing and take a swim in the Hudson River. He is a fine swimmer. After breakfast he mounts his horse (of which he keeps a number of good ones), and takes a ride over his farm. All the work of his farm is ordered and carried out by the Judge, who being raised on a farm, is a practical farmer, and in the busy time takes off his coat, rolls up his sleeves and works like a hero. The inspection or examination of his farm is usually through with by 11 o'clock, and then he is found in his library, where he reads his letters and papers until noon, when the family sits down to dinner. After dinner the Judge spends the time in his library with his private secretary, Arthur McCausland, and the family does not see him, unless something unusual happens, before 6 o'clock, when he is requested to come to the evening meal. When he is in Albany holding court



JUDGE PARKER, ON HIS FARM AT ESOPUS, N. Y., INSPECTING HERD OF RED POLLS.

He was again the only successful Democrat in the county. In 1884 he was a delegate to the Democratic National Convention that nominated Grover Cleveland. In 1885 he went to the state convention that brought out David B. Hill for Governor. In this convention he became known throughout the State of New York and was selected as a member of the State executive committee and was made its chairman and planned and executed the successful campaign that resulted.

BECOMES A JUDGE.

In 1885 there had to be chosen a member of the New York Supreme Court, and Governor David B. Hill appointed Alton B. Parker to that judgeship. It was for the unexpired term, and at its close Judge Parker was again nominated for the position. Many leading Republican attorneys were won over by his impartiality on the bench and openly supported him and he was re-elected by a handsome majority. He remained in this office for twelve years, showing the esteem and confidence his fellow citizens, irrespective of party, entertained for him, and he is to-day respected and admired by all who know him. Then it is no wonder that the leading states-

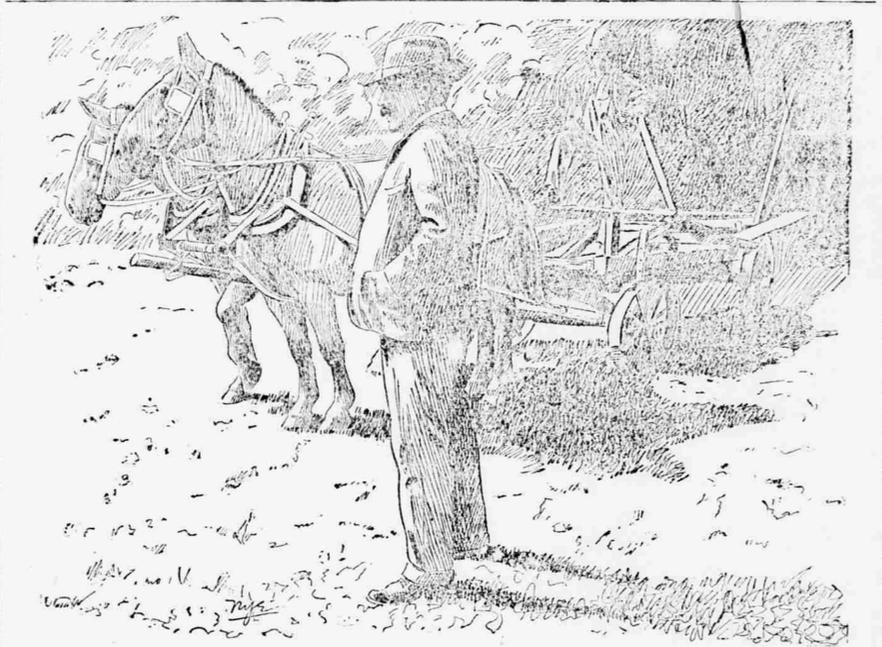
shown by his decisions and decrees mark him to be of sterling mental and moral worth.

HOME ON THE HUDSON.

Esopus, where Judge Parker has his residence, is a small village of thirty-five houses, built along a country crossroad. The Hudson River, which spreads out to surround the island of Esopus, grandly flows toward the ocean, and in its enchanting beauty when once seen by the tourist is never forgotten. The grand hills of the Catskills form the background of the scene. On the top of an elevation, from which the eye can behold the river and the mountain scenery for a great distance, stands Rosemount, the Parker home. The house stands about one hundred and fifty feet above the river banks, and is a large two-story building. About it are large trees and the path to it is gravelled and divides a lawn ornamented with beds of flowers. A path leads down to the river bank, and at the end of the path in the summer is anchored a magnificent launch named Niche, which is used by the Judge and his family. The older part of the Judge's residence was standing when the British fleet anchored in front of it in 1777, the night before the British burned Kings-

The Judge rises at 6.30 o'clock every morning, and even if the weather is cold he has his horseshoe ride before breakfast. He is methodical in all things that he performs. This is the secret and explains how he does so much work.

There is great dignity and a look of immense power in Judge Parker which matches well his black silk robe when he presides as Chief Justice in the Court of Appeals. He is youngest of the Judges and observes closely the argument and fastens his eyes on the lawyer who is addressing him. His courtesy to lawyers is commented on all over the State. When he makes a decision there is no waste of words; argument is useless after the thing is done. His associates declare he does his utmost to save them from unnecessary labor, and that he is the only member of the Court of Appeals who is always present when the court is open. The other Judges take a vacation regularly, but Judge Parker is found every day of the session on his seat, so that there will be someone present who will have knowledge of all rulings made in court. The Judge sits high in his seat as justice. Around him are the statue of Livingston and the portraits of John Jay and others.



JUDGE PARKER, ON HIS FARM AT ESOPUS, N. Y., OVERLOOKING THE WORK.

men of New York declare he will be elected President and that he will have a majority in his own State of one hundred thousand votes.

Judge Parker, time and again, declined to leave the bench and take an active part in political life. After Cleveland was elected in 1884 Parker was offered the first assistant postmaster-generalship, but declined it. He refused a nomination for Secretary of State and one for Lieutenant-Governor when the party was likely to be successful.

Another triumph was in store for the able and upright Judge. After

Through the house, about in its centre, runs a broad hall, used as a living room, in which are book cases filled with the works of the standard writers, both prose and poetry. From the floor the library takes up about all the southern half of the first story. From the floor to the ceiling are found row after row of books. There are hundreds of them. On a stand are found other volumes which the Judge needs to make frequent examinations. A table stands in the bow window of the room and in the centre of the room stands a directors' table. On these tables are piled books and documents, and here

As the Justice looks through the window he can see Hudson River, which flows swiftly along the front of his farm, the beloved Esopus, sixty miles away, where dwells his family, where are found his herds, his crops, and where he hastens at the end of each week. Even if his mind is perplexed studying the intricate problems of his great office, his affections cling around his home, his farm and his grandchildren, for he was born a farmer and he will die a farmer.

CALM AND DELIBERATE.

Judge Parker works calmly and de-

liberately, not like President Roosevelt, who is credited with jumping at everything in a fury of energy and working strenuously, as he terms it. Judge Parker works orderly and accomplishes a vast amount of work. No one has ever heard him speak unkindly of an inferior, his natural kindness smooths the way, yet he has the firmness of a Gibraltar in his opinions and decisions.

Judge Parker is no fancy farmer, joying at farming like a boy with a toy. He manages his farm and makes it pay. He is a real farmer, who directs the work, examines the plowing, and in harvest time is found in his shirt sleeves at work with his men in saving the hay and cutting the wheat. Judge Parker is not a rich man, as the term is now understood. He may be worth \$30,000, made by saving and by good judgment. His farm at Cortland came to him from his father. He was born on it and toiled on it when a boy. Like the great Daniel Webster, he cannot bear to part with the home where his happy boyhood days were spent, "where to fame and fortune unknown" he worked assiduously to get an education and to become a person of usefulness and of some consequence in his day and generation.

Judge Parker has never been defeated yet, and it is very unlikely that good fortune will desert him when the prize is so near his grasp. Hospitality is one of the cardinal virtues in Judge Parker's household. Like the planter in the Southern States previous to the war of 1861, he deems it to be a privilege to offer entertainment over night. All his neighbors are his friends, and when he is at the head of his dining table, surrounded by his wife, mother, brother, a sister of Mrs. Parker, who lives at Rosamont; his daughter, son-in-law, grandchildren and Secretary McCausland, with two or three guests, he is the life of the party, gentle and dignified, directing the conversation, but not monopolizing it. A man's private habits throw much light on his character, and nothing in the life of a candidate for President is uninteresting to the people who vote for the one who is to fill the office for the next four years.

Although Judge Parker rises early, he does not retire to his sleeping room before 11 o'clock at night, and he works so unobtrusively during the day that he sleeps as sweetly as a babe on his mother's bosom. He hardly ever requires more than seven hours' sleep.

WORDS OF WISDOM.

The following words from Judge Parker's latter of acceptance are particularly foretold and characteristic:

"I have not aspired to a congenial work, to which I had expected to devote my life, in order to assume as best I can, the responsibilities your convention put upon me.

"I solicit the cordial cooperation and generous assistance of every man who believes that a change of measures and of men at this time would be wise, and urge harmony of endeavor as well as vigorous action on the part of all so minded.

"The issues are joined and the people must render the verdict.

"Shall economy of administration be demanded or shall extravagance be encouraged?

"Shall the wrongdoer be brought to bay by the people, or must justice wait upon political expediency?

"Shall our government stand for equal opportunity or for special privilege?

"Shall it remain a government of law or become one of individual caprice?"

"Shall we cling to the rule of the people, or shall we embrace beneficent deception?"

"With calmness and confidence we await the people's verdict.

"If called to the office of President, I shall consider myself the Chief Magistrate of all the people and not of any faction, and shall ever be mindful of the fact that on many questions of National policy there are honest differences of opinion. I believe in the protection of all the people, I shall strive to remember that he may serve his party best who serves his country best.

"If it be the wish of the people that I undertake the duties of the Presidency, I pledge myself, with God's help, to devote all my powers and energy to the duties of this exalted office."

Don't throw away your vote! If you want to strike a blow at the Trusts

VOTE FOR PARKER!

DRYAN ROUING INDIANA.

Great Nebraska Congressman Speaking to Impetuous and Enthusiastic Crowds.

Mr. Bryan's speeches in Indiana have evidently been a great disappointment to the Republican managers. He has struck out straight from the shoulder in favor of a complete Democratic victory in the Hoosier State and everywhere else. His remarks have been in good taste and they bear every evidence of unrestrained sincerity. To say that he has drawn great crowds wherever he has appeared is superfluous, but it is not out of place to mention the fact that no other speaker on either side has had audiences one-half as large as his, and that no other audiences have been as interested and enthusiastic.

Mr. Bryan has made it plain to his hearers that while he did not get all he wanted at St. Louis, he got most of it. He got tariff and trust planks that suit him, and he got equally good planks on Philippine independence and imperialism. He concedes that the money question is no longer an issue, having been crowded out by the extraordinary production of gold. As between Judge Parker and Theodore Roosevelt, he thinks there should be no hesitation on the part of any Democrat. He urged all of his friends to support the Democratic National ticket locally, as he himself would do. It is doubtful if there is another State in the Union which contains as many devoted admirers of Mr. Bryan as Indiana, and his speeches in that State ought to be worth a great many votes to the Democratic tickets, State and National.

If you want the laws enforced against the Beef Trust, the Tobacco Trust, and all the other Trusts,

VOTE FOR PARKER!

SCENES FROM LIFE OF A POLITICAL APOSTATE

BLOW DID NOT ALMOST KILL DEMOCRACY WHEN ROBERT TREAT PAINE, JR., DESERTED.

Has Renounced the Faith of His Fathers Because of His Desire to See Elected a President That Will Invite Doctor T. Washington to Dinner.

Probably there are many readers of The American who have managed to exist without even having heard of Mr. Robert Treat Paine, Jr., of Boston. Mr. Paine is the sublimated gentleman who some days ago renounced the Democratic faith and enlisted under the Roosevelt banner because of his desire to see elected a President who would invite Doctor Washington to dinner, and perhaps afford other colored citizens an opportunity to dine at the White House. While a severe blow, Mr. Paine's desertion has not left the Democratic party entirely hopeless. Into the brief moment it brings him into the paraded spot light. From Alabama comes the statement of the editor of the Laverne Critic, formerly a resident of Washington, D. C., a statement to this effect:

"Robert Treat Paine, being for his wife, bought, through his agents in Washington, D. C., a piece of land in Virginia near Fort Myer and Arlington, laid off into town lots, named it Charleston, and sold to people with a binding contract that said no colored person was to be sold on a negro. I own three of these lots—119, 120 and 121—and have the contracts and the deeds for them."

Thus it would seem that while Mr. Paine prefers a President who will not with colored folks, by breakfast time when it comes to selling town lots. There is another incident in the life of Robert Treat Paine which reveals his superlatively assuming qualities to perfection. In the city of Brooklyn there lives a Robert Treat Paine who a year or two ago received through the mail a number of divided checks which were evidently not intended for him. Investigation disclosed the fact that they were the property of Robert Treat Paine, of London, and he forwarded them to the Boston person, with a polite note of explanation. In return for his courtesy he received this note:

"Your letter, with its inclosure, has been received by me. I hope you will allow me to express my sincere regret and my thanks for the name that by right of blood descent belongs to me and my family here in Boston. There is no other direct male descendant of Robert Treat Paine, signer of the Declaration of Independence, who was the first to bear that name. If the name was given you in honor of the signer, I think such a practice should not receive the sanction of thoughtful persons."

The Brooklyn Paine thereupon wrote the Boston Paine as follows:

"For the reason that it is impossible to stop the Bray of the donkey without killing the ass I will allow you to express your sincere regret. The family to which I have the honor to belong existed for many years prior to the signing of the Declaration of Independence, and your statement that the signer was the first to bear the name suggests thoughts as to his antecedents. I have never been sufficiently interested to look up my genealogy, and I certainly shall never attempt to do so. I am, however, a descendant of the Boston Paine as follows:

"This closed the incident. Now comes Robert Treat Paine, of Boston, who again makes public his claim to being the prize-winner of North America. Why he is not in a ward for lunatics in the foolish house is a question which should chiefly concern his neighbors—Nashville (Tenn.) American.

WHERE IT HURTS.

Tariff on Coal a Great Injustice in New England.

Why should not New England get coal where it can be had for the least money? But for a tariff it could be had for a reasonable price from across the Canadian line. Canada supplies an abundance of bituminous coal. Alabama and Tennessee afford all the coal needed for the Southern States and much other territory besides.

This instance of the protective tariff system affords the very best illustration of its iniquity. Fuel for the poor, especially in the frigid climate of New England, ought at least to be as cheap, relatively, as coal, as it is in Canada. In the South, supplied by the abundant mineral resources of Alabama and Tennessee, to say nothing of the scarcely touched coal beds of Arkansas and Indian Territory, and blessed with a perennially temperate climate, they have a great advantage. The tariff should not deny to the people—the poor people of the New England States—the chance for a living, as far as fuel is concerned, which is enjoyed by the people of the South. It is a protective tariff which makes this great difference.

The Republican Beef Trust has raised the price of meat for the people while itself paying lower prices than ever to the cattle-raisers. If you want cheaper meat

VOTE FOR PARKER!

The Battle in Minnesota.

Minnesota Republicans are now so rattled because of the growing opposition to Dumm, the Republican nominee for Governor, that they have appealed to the Western headquarters of the Republican National Committee to release all Minnesota Republicans who have been assigned to speak in other States. Johnson, the Democratic nominee, is making a great fight and in some localities will get a third of the Republican vote. Democrats and independents are for him to a man. His election is easily among the possibilities.